

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 19-20498

Hon. Paul D. Borman

**ALEX CASTRO AND
JASON KECHEGO,**

Defendants.

**DEFENDANTS' JOINT RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT'S
MOTION IN LIMINE TO LIMIT THE SCOPE OF
IMPEACHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S WITNESSES BY
EVIDENCE OF A CRIMINAL CONVICTION UNDER RULE 609**

Like the government's prior motion concerning Christian Maire, the government's Rule 609 motion is an attempt to have this case tried in a vacuum. The fact of the matter is that Michael Figura's and Craig Evans's status as "Chomos" is relevant to the Defendant's motives and state of mind. It also provides context to the crimes alleged. Accordingly, Defendants incorporate by reference the arguments set forth in their response brief to the government's attempt to preclude Defendant's from eliciting evidence of Christian Maire's background and prior bad acts. See R. 189.

As for potential witness Joseph Rafael, the government's motion is premature. At this point, the defense does not know if Joseph Rafael received any

benefits from the government for his testimony at trial. If indeed Joseph Rafael agreed to cooperate and received some benefit from his testimony, inquiry into Joseph Rafael's background and prior bad acts would be fair game.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Michael A. Rataj

MICHAEL A. RATAJ (P43004)

Attorney for Alex Castro

500 Griswold Street

2450 Guardian Building

Detroit, MI 48226

(313) 963-4529

ratajmi@aol.com

s/ Henry M. Scharg

HENRY M. SCHARG

Attorney for Jason Kechego

30445 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 225

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 596-1111

hmsattyatlaw@aol.com

Dated: May 17, 2022

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that on May 17, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing Defendant's Joint Response to Government's Motion in Limine to Limit the Scope of Impeachment of the Government's Witnesses by Evidence of a Criminal Conviction Under Rule 609, with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system, which gives notification to all attorney's of record.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Michael A. Rataj

MICHAEL A. RATAJ (P43004)